

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT
Prusi Press Release

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Sen. Prusi and the President of Finland to Celebrate
Finlandia University Graduation Ceremony

Finland's first female president to deliver keynote address and receive honorary doctorate from Houghton/Hancock university

LANSING – Senator Mike Prusi will join the President of the Republic of Finland Tarja Halonen Saturday, April 26 for Finlandia University's graduation ceremony. During the event, the university will present Her Excellency with an honorary doctorate and she will deliver the commencement address. Prusi will also present her with a formal senate resolution welcoming her on behalf of Governor Granholm, the Legislature, and the citizens of Michigan.

"I am truly honored to join President Halonen in celebrating the achievements of this extraordinary graduating class," Prusi said. "The Upper Peninsula is proud of its Finnish heritage. We welcome Her Excellency and her family, and look forward to showing them all the beauty and splendor our area has to offer."

A staunch advocate for human rights, equality, democracy and civil society, President Halonen was elected the 11th President of Finland in February 2000. She has served in three Cabinets, with appointments as Minister for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health; Minister of Justice; and Minister for Foreign Affairs. In her spare time, she enjoys the theatre, visual arts, swimming, rhythmic gymnastics competition, and gardening. She speaks five languages, including: Finnish, Swedish, English, German, and French.

The women of Finland have reached a number of historic political milestones, beginning in 1864, when they were first given legal rights to own property and dispose of their own income. In 1906, Finland became the first European Country to grant women the right of suffrage and the first country to grant women the right to become electoral candidates.

Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.

Editor's Note: Sen. Prusi's most recent photo is available for download; please visit his web site at:
senate.michigan.gov/dem/sd38/photos.html

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